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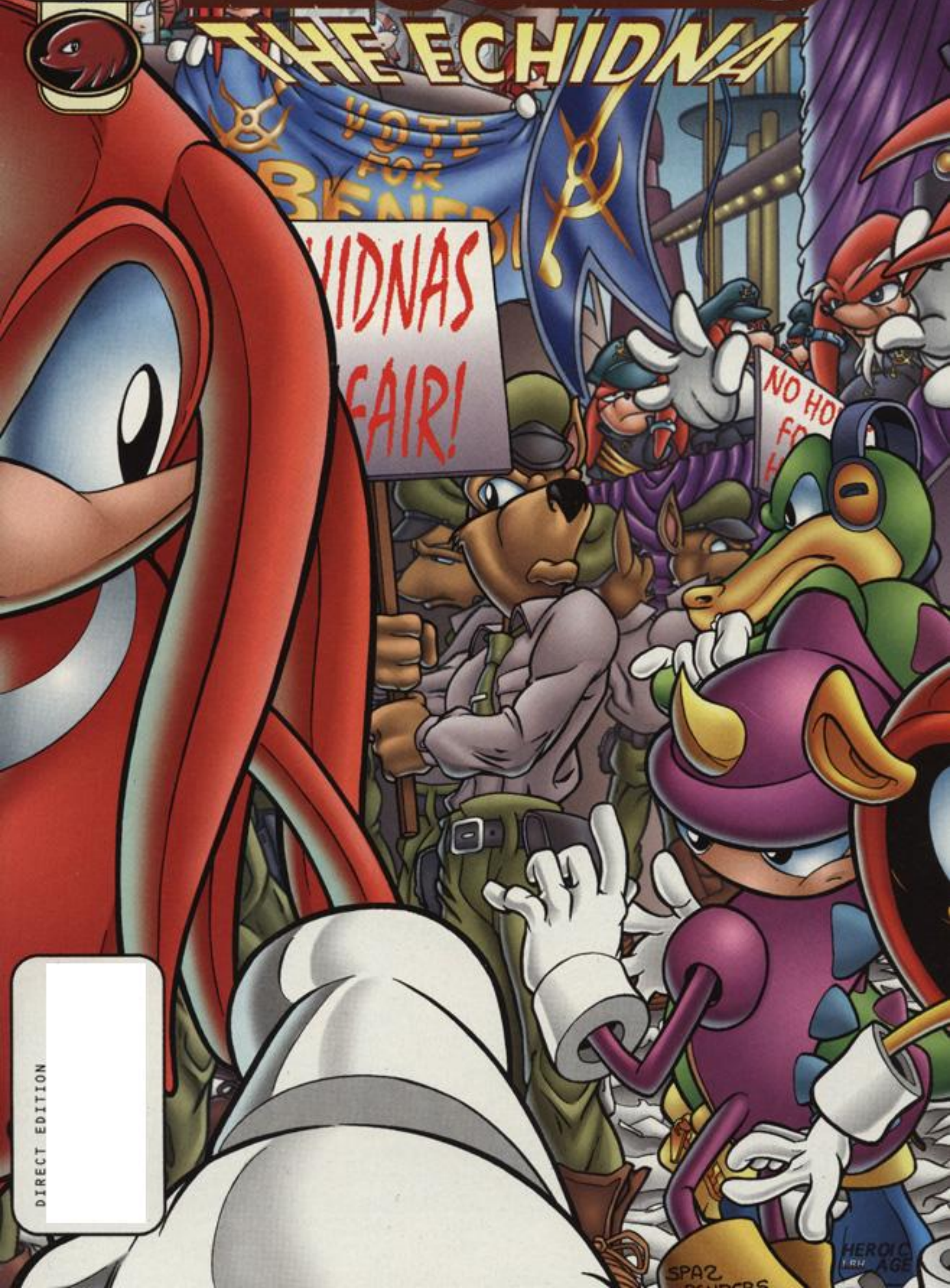
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THE ECHIDNA



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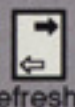
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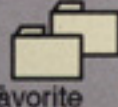
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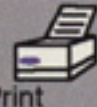
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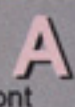
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KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-TWO

DARK ALLIANCE

PART ONE OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

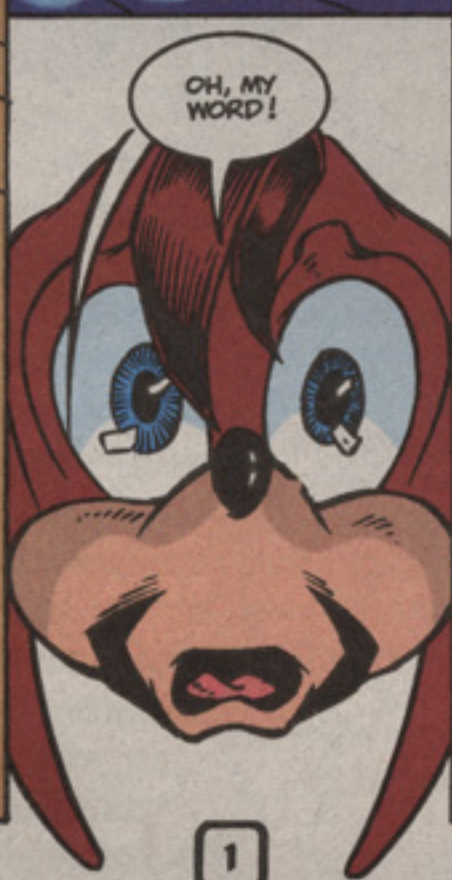
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT...
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!



ROBOTROPOLIS, 3228:

"DURING DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S TAKE-OVER THROUGH ROBOTICIZATION, THE SWATBOTS CAME FOR THE FOXES, AND I DID NOT SPEAK UP BECAUSE I WAS NOT A FOX. THEN THEY CAME FOR THE RABBITS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK UP BECAUSE I WAS NOT A RABBIT. THEN THEY CAME FOR THE SQUIRRELS, BUT I DID NOT SPEAK UP BECAUSE I WAS NOT A SQUIRREL. THEN THEY CAME FOR THE HEDGEHOGS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK UP BECAUSE I WAS AN ECHIDNA. THEN THEY CAME FOR ME, AND BY THAT TIME NOBODY WAS LEFT TO SPEAK UP."

ANONYMOUS



YOU'VE BEEN SO OUTSPOKEN IN YOUR
AVERSION TO OUR TECHNOLOGY THAT
WE WANTED TO FIND OUT WHY!



WIDE-SCREEN HIGH-
DEFINITION TV--VIDEOPHONE--
CLOSED CIRCUIT SECURITY
MONITOR SYSTEM--TO SAY
NOTHING OF ALL THE DOO-DADS
AND GADGETS LYING ABOUT.

QUITE A COLLECTION FOR
SUCH AN AVID TECHNOPHOBIC!

WHY, YOUR
AVERAGE CITIZEN
BARELY HAS THE
BASICS!

YOU THINK
THEY'LL FEEL
SORRY FOR
YOU ONCE THEY
LEARN THE
TRUTH?

ESCORT THE HIGH COUNCILOR
BACK TO THE CENTRE!

ONCE WORD OF
THIS GETS OUT--

"--WE'LL SOON FIND OUT WHO OUR TRUE FRIENDS AND ALLIES ARE!"

HOW DO I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE ON THE LEVEL ABOUT MY FATHER?

HOW DO I EVEN KNOW YOU'RE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE?

WHAT KIND OF A FAMILY KEEPS EVERYTHING SUCH A SECRET?



IF THERE'S ANYTHING I UNDERSTAND--

YOU SAY YOU WANT A

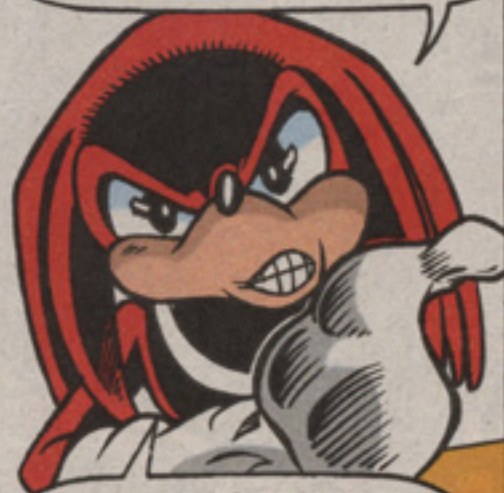
MY BOY, IF THERE'S ANY
ONE THING I *REGRET*--IT'S THAT
WE DID KEEP YOU IN THE DARK FAR
LONGER THAN WE SHOULD HAVE!

YOU HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND, WE
DID IT WITH YOUR
BEST INTERESTS
IN MIND!



REVOLUTION...

--IT'S THAT I'VE BEEN SOLD A LOAD OF MAMUA EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER!



AND I'LL BET MY FATHER IS PART OF THIS WHOLE SHEEBANG!

DON'T BE SO QUICK TO JUDGE EITHER HIM OR US, M'BOY!

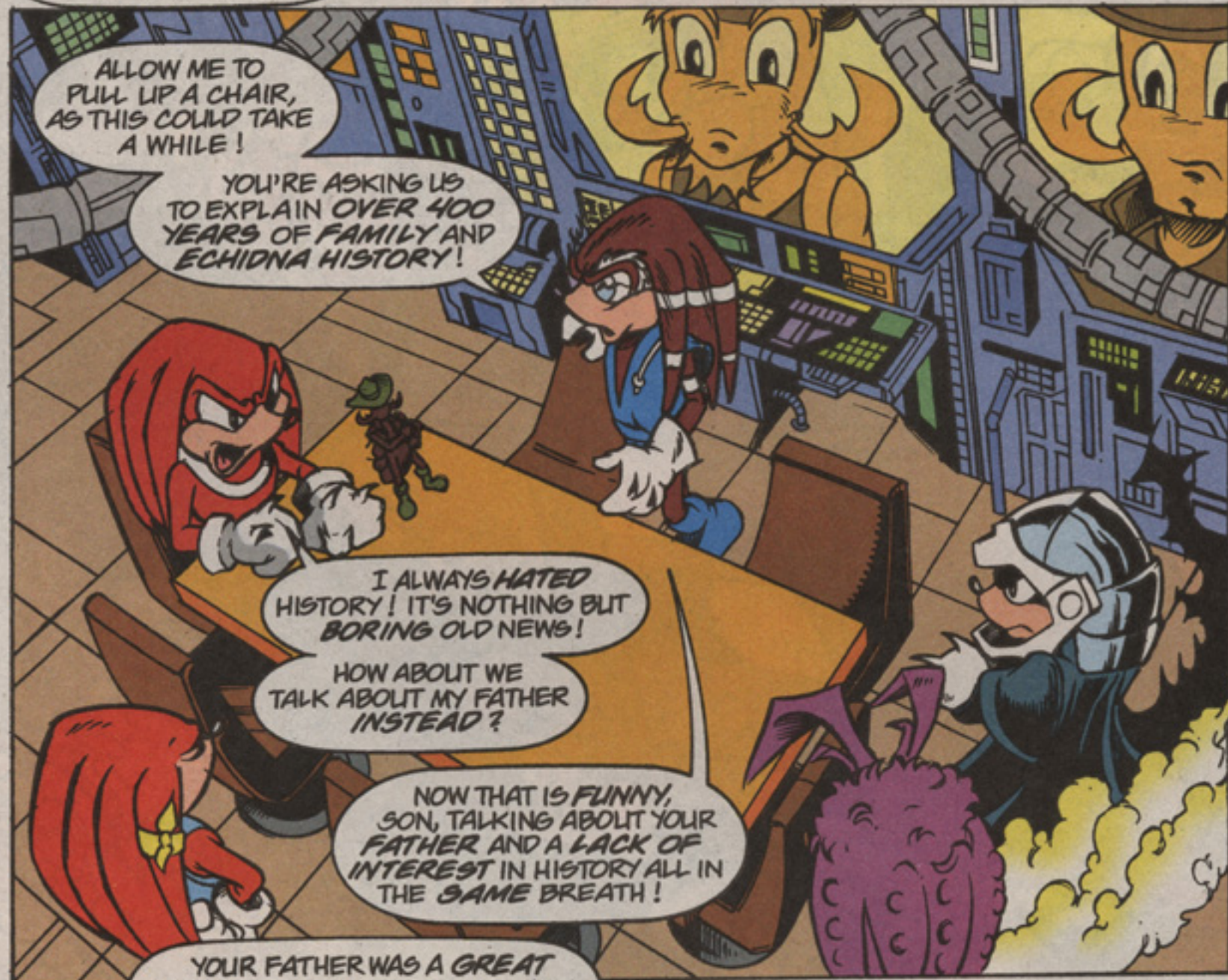
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO THIS THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE!



TRY ME!

ALLOW ME TO PULL UP A CHAIR, AS THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE!

YOU'RE ASKING US TO EXPLAIN OVER 400 YEARS OF FAMILY AND ECHIDNA HISTORY!



I ALWAYS HATED HISTORY! IT'S NOTHING BUT BORING OLD NEWS!

HOW ABOUT WE TALK ABOUT MY FATHER INSTEAD?

NOW THAT IS FUNNY, SON, TALKING ABOUT YOUR FATHER AND A LACK OF INTEREST IN HISTORY ALL IN THE SAME BREATH!

YOUR FATHER WAS A GREAT STUDENT OF HISTORY, BECAME OBSESSED WITH IT, IN FACT!

WHICH IS WHY WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU!

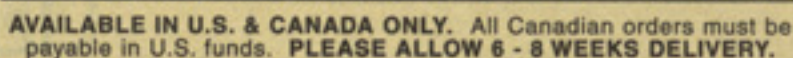


I'M DOING JUST FINE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

ALL I WANT TO KNOW--



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"--IS THE WHEREABOUTS OF MY FATHER RIGHT NOW!"

FWHOOOOOSH!!!

PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY, SIR?

CERTAINLY, CONSTABLE!

I TAKE IT THINGS DIDN'T GO WELL BETWEEN YOU AND THE LADY LARA-LE?

PRETTY MUCH WHAT I EXPECTED, UNFORTUNATELY.

THE DIFFERENCES ARE MORE THAN WE'RE ABLE TO SURMOUNT!

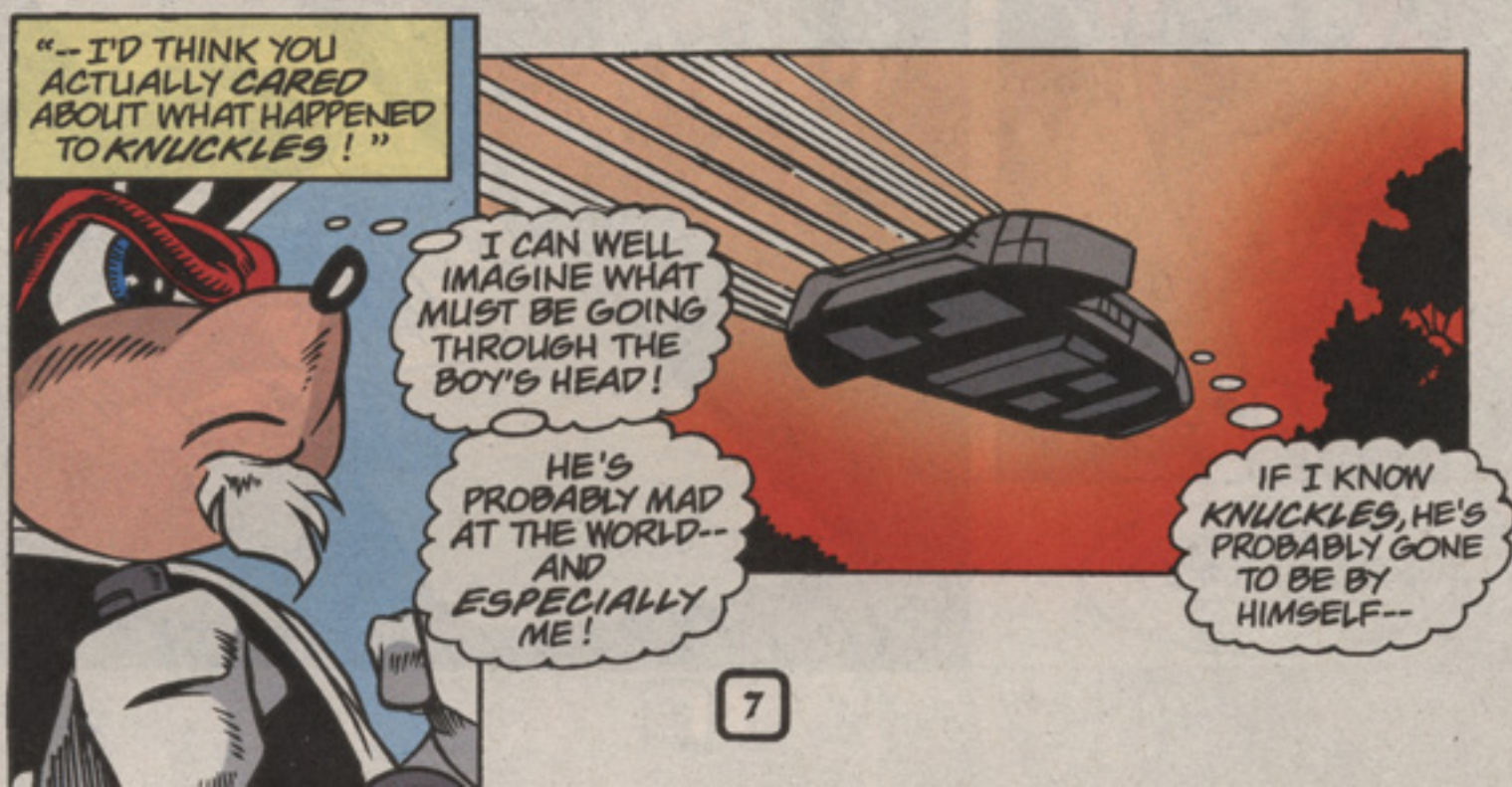
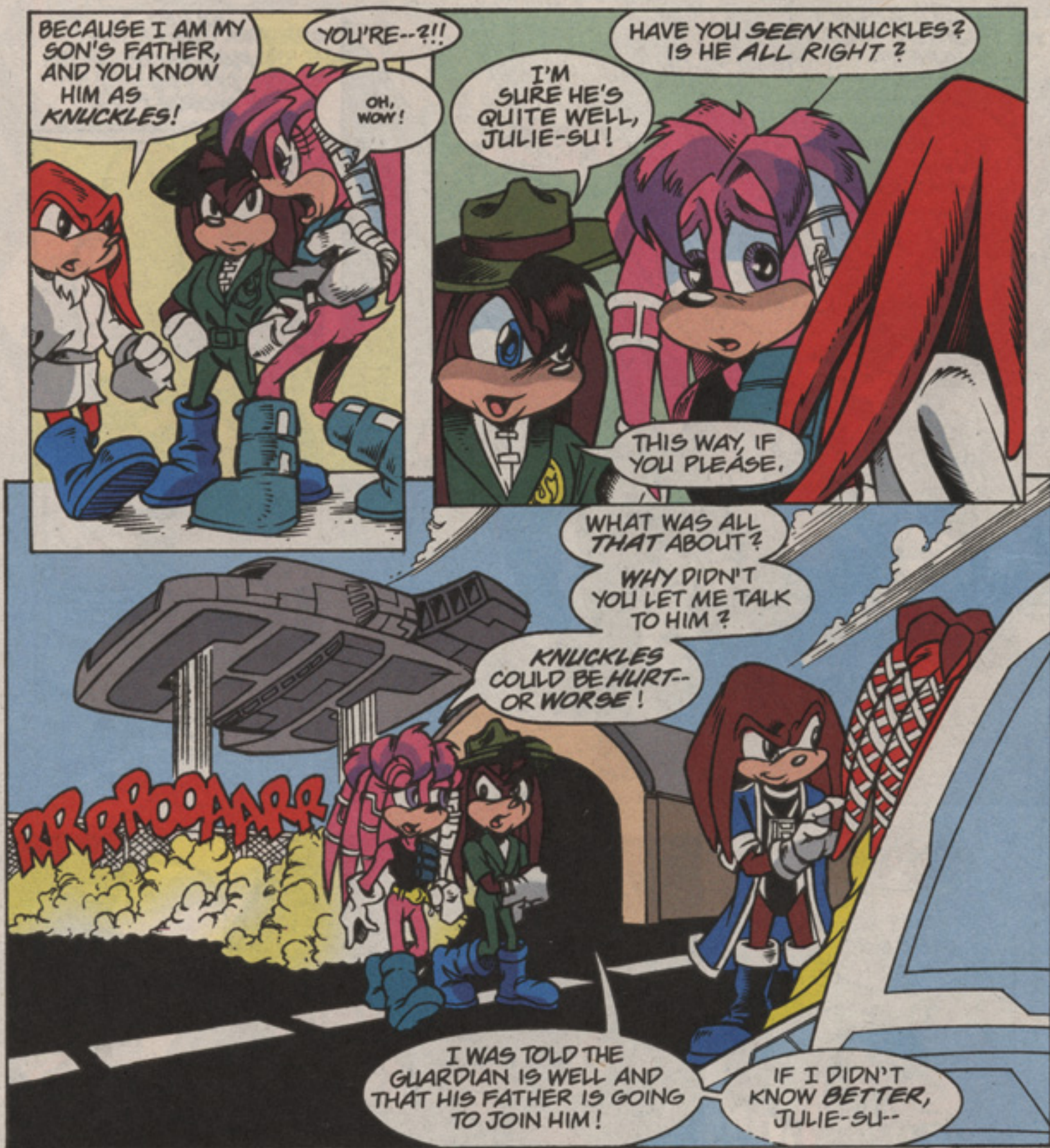
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT!

DON'T BE! SOMETIMES THESE THINGS ARE BEYOND ANYONE'S ABILITY TO WORK OUT!

READY TO DEPART, JULIE-SU?

I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO OUR PILOT FOR SAVING OUR BACON!

WHY DO I FEEL I KNOW YOU?



"--AT THE ONE PLACE
WE'D LEAST LIKELY
TO SUSPECT!"

WH-WHERE ARE
YOU TAKING ME?
HAVEN'T YOU DONE
ENOUGH?

LET ME GO!
LET ME GO,
I SAY!!



QUIET,
YOU
PATHETIC
LITTLE
WORM!



YOU'LL DO
WHAT WE TELL
YOU WHEN WE
TELL YOU!

Oooow!

CAN'T WE
DISCUSS
THIS?!

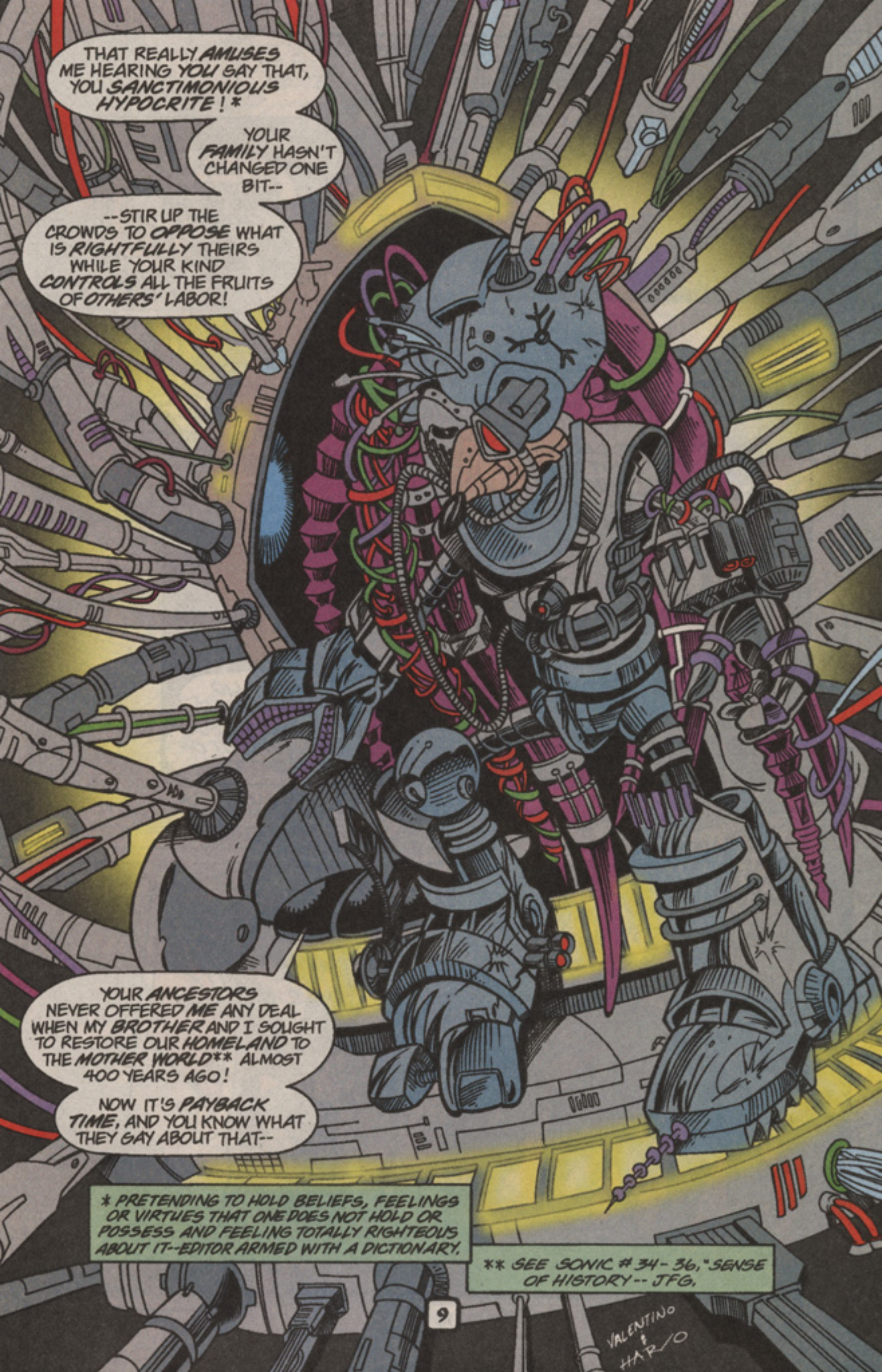


I'M SURE
WE CAN MAKE A
DEAL!!



DEAL?

DID YOU
SAY YOU WISH
TO MAKE A
DEAL?



THAT REALLY AMUSES
ME HEARING YOU SAY THAT,
YOU SANCTIMONIOUS
HYPOCRITE! *

YOUR
FAMILY HASN'T
CHANGED ONE
BIT--

--STIR UP THE
CROWDS TO OPPOSE WHAT
IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS
WHILE YOUR KIND
CONTROLS ALL THE FRUITS
OF OTHERS' LABOR!

YOUR ANCESTORS
NEVER OFFERED ME ANY DEAL
WHEN MY BROTHER AND I SOUGHT
TO RESTORE OUR HOMELAND TO
THE MOTHER WORLD** ALMOST
400 YEARS AGO!

NOW IT'S PAYBACK
TIME, AND YOU KNOW WHAT
THEY SAY ABOUT THAT--

* PRETENDING TO HOLD BELIEFS, FEELINGS
OR VIRTUES THAT ONE DOES NOT HOLD OR
POSSESS AND FEELING TOTALLY RIGHTEOUS
ABOUT IT--EDITOR ARMED WITH A DICTIONARY.

** SEE SONIC # 34- 36, "SENSE
OF HISTORY-- JFG,

"--IT'S LIKE AN ITCH,
ONLY MEANER!"

HOW MUCH FURTHER, CONSTABLE?
WE SEEM TO BE TAKING THE
LONG WAY HOME!

SEEMS WE
HAVE A CROWD
UP AHEAD--

--THEY'LL
JUST STEP ASIDE
ONCE WE GET
CLOSER!

NO, THEY
WON'T!!

CRIPES!!!

SCREEEECH!

D'YA THINK THEY HAVE
A PERMIT FOR THIS SORT
OF THING, SIR?

WE CAN ALWAYS
BUST THEM IF
THEY DON'T!

KEEP A LID
ON IT, DEPUTY!
I DON'T WANNA
BLOW THIS OUT OF
PROPORTION!

GEOFF
GET A GANDER OVER
THERE! IT'S THE
JACKBOOTS!

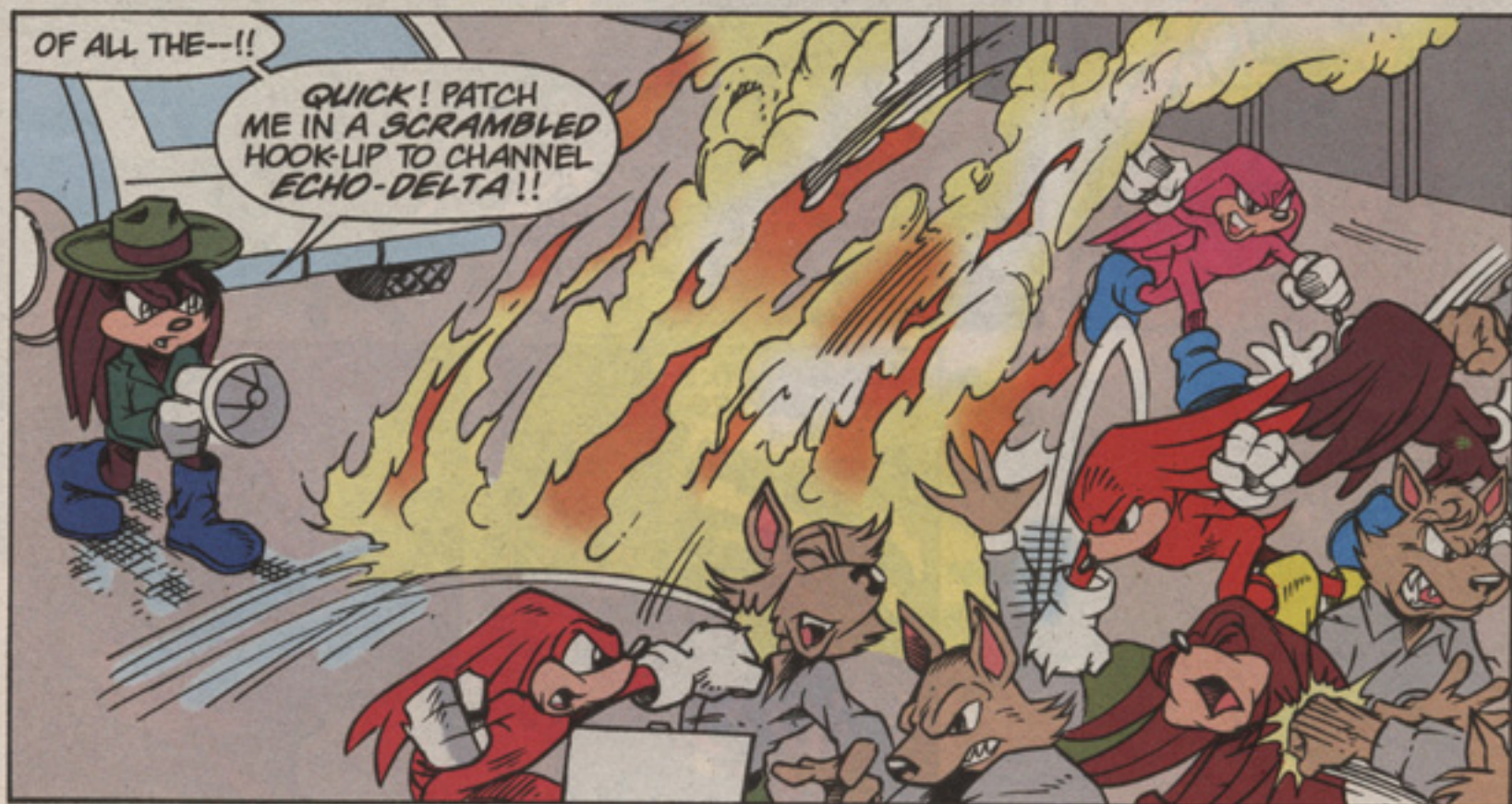
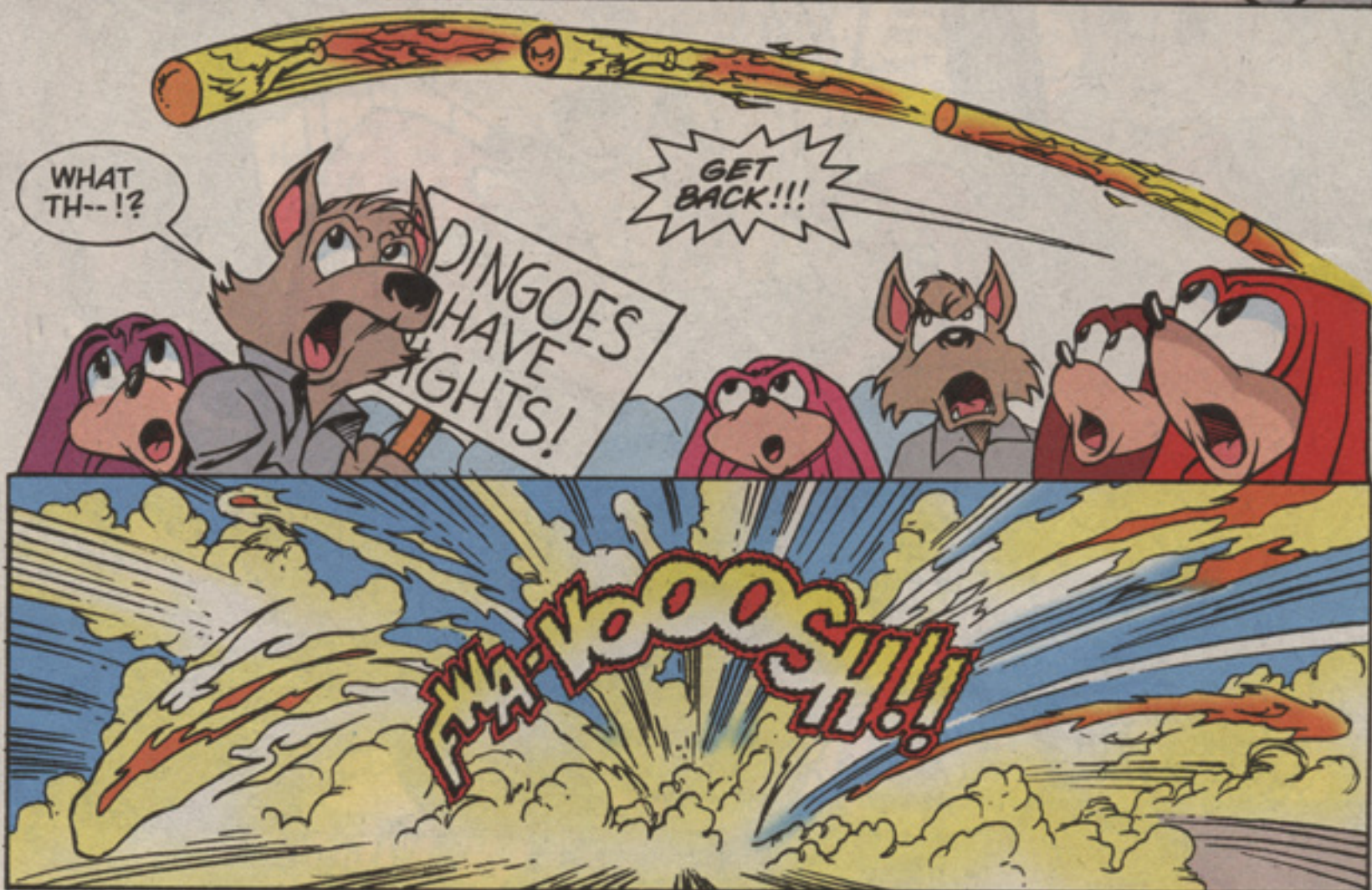
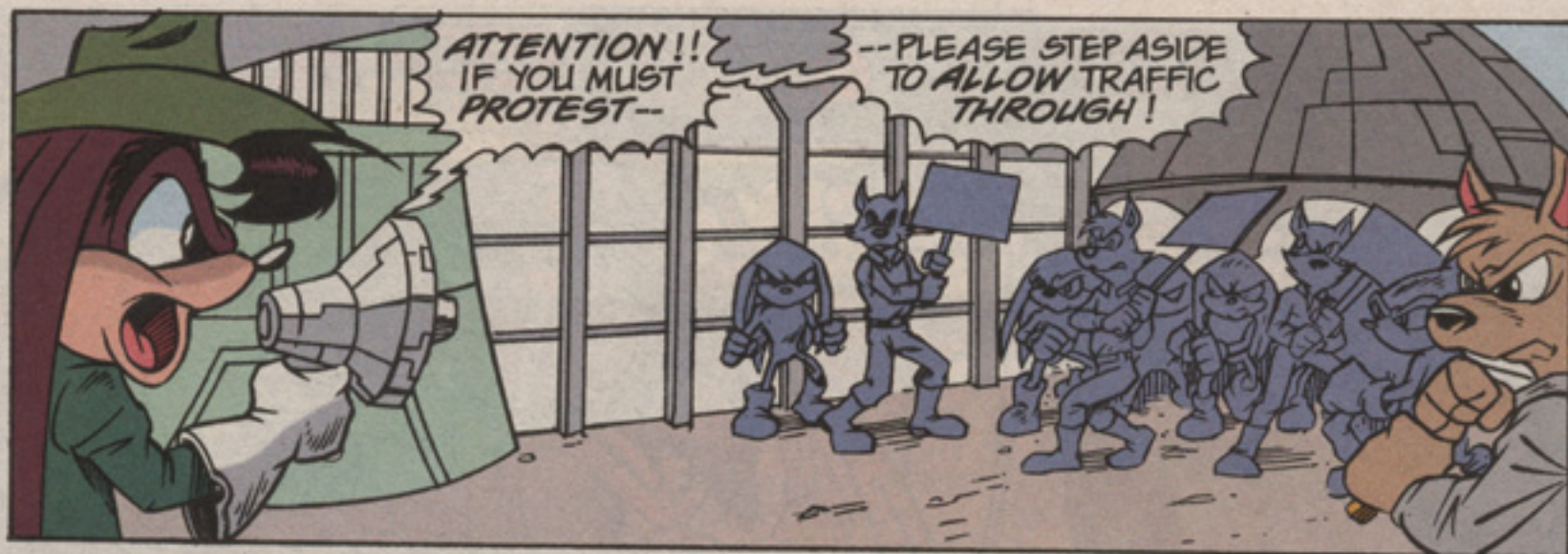
THEY WON'T TOUCH US!
NOT IF THEY DON'T WANT OTHER
ECHIDNAS TO FEEL SYMPATHETIC
TO OUR CAUSE!

ECHIDNAS
UNFAIR

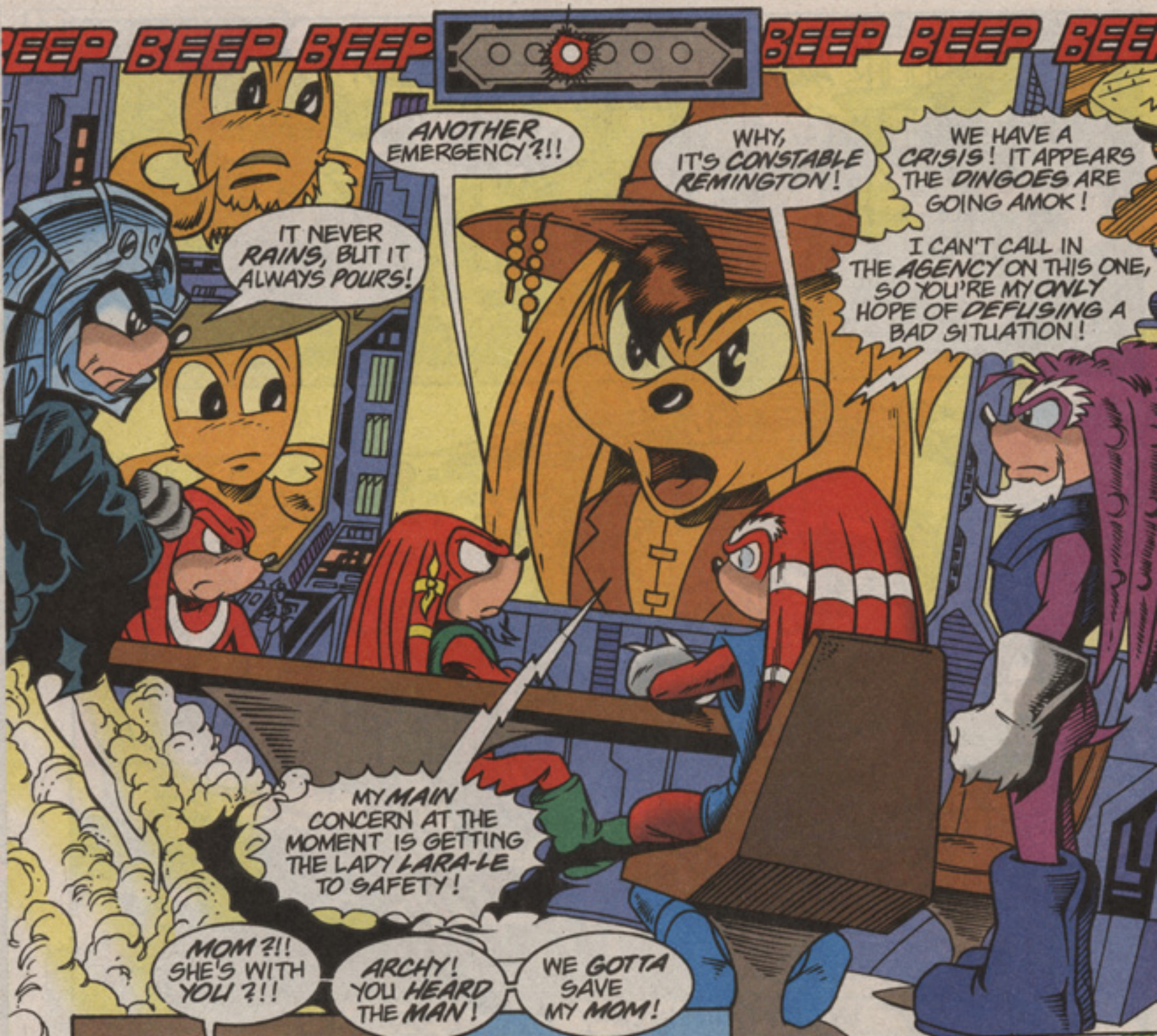
INGLES
HAVE
NEEDS

TRUST
NO

HERE'S HOPING
I CAN REASON WITH
THE COOLER HEADS
AMONG THAT CROWD!



BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP



" -- HAVING TO ANSWER THAT BOY'S QUESTIONS OR JUST STANDING BY AS HE TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS! "

I CAN'T PUT THIS OFF ANY LONGER!

HOWEVER NOBLE AND GOOD MY INTENTIONS WERE, I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF KNUCKLES FIRST AND FOREMOST!

MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT IT, LARA WAS RIGHT--

--I REALLY HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH OF A PARENT!

MAYBE CERTAIN THINGS WORKED WELL IN THE PAST, BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED, AND PERHAPS I DIDN'T CHANGE ENOUGH WITH THEM!

KNUCKLES!

KNUCKLES!

EVIDENTLY, THE LAD ISN'T HERE!

WHICH IS JUST AS WELL--

--GIVEN HOW UNCERTAIN I AM AT WHAT I SHOULD SAY!

FOR ONE THING--

"--I SINCERELY DOUBT
SIMPLY SAYING 'I'M
SORRY' MAKES UP
FOR IT!"

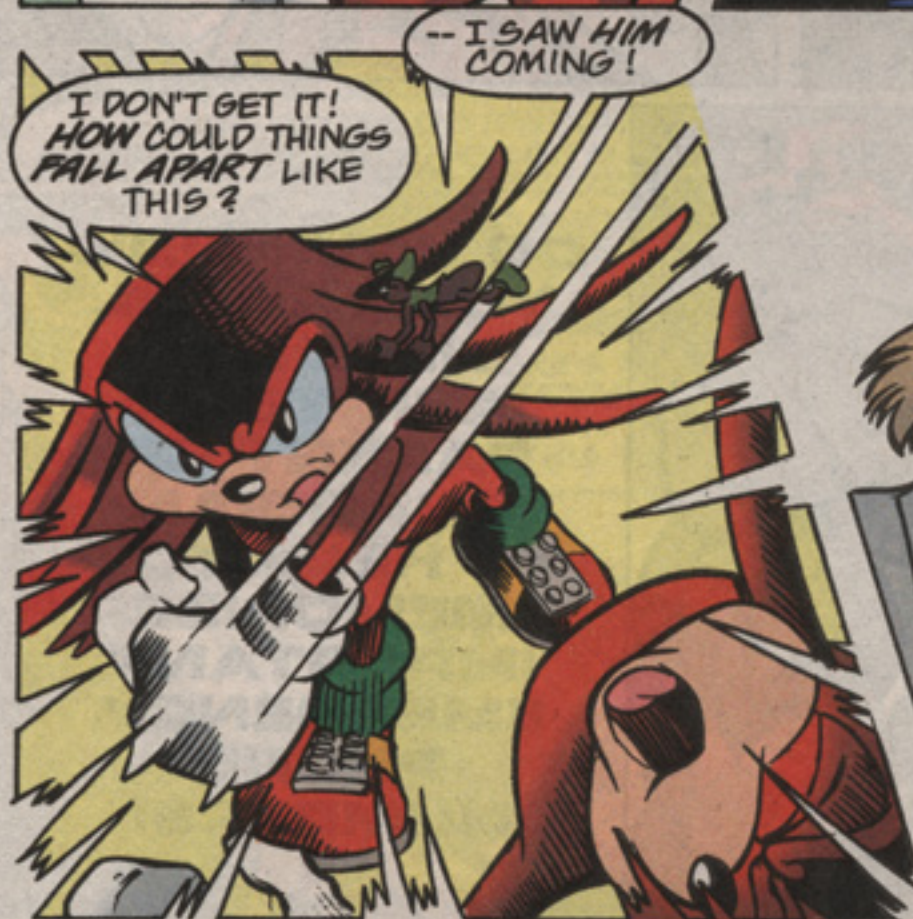
WHOA,
ARCHY!

THEY'RE AWFULLY
FRIENDLY AROUND
HERE!

EVIDENTLY
NOBODY WANTS
TO GET ALONG,
M'BOY!

AT THE VERY LEAST,
ECHIDNAS AND
DINGOES, Y'MEAN!

INCOMING!





GENERAL
VON STRYKER!!
SIR!!!

THIS IS
PATHETIC!

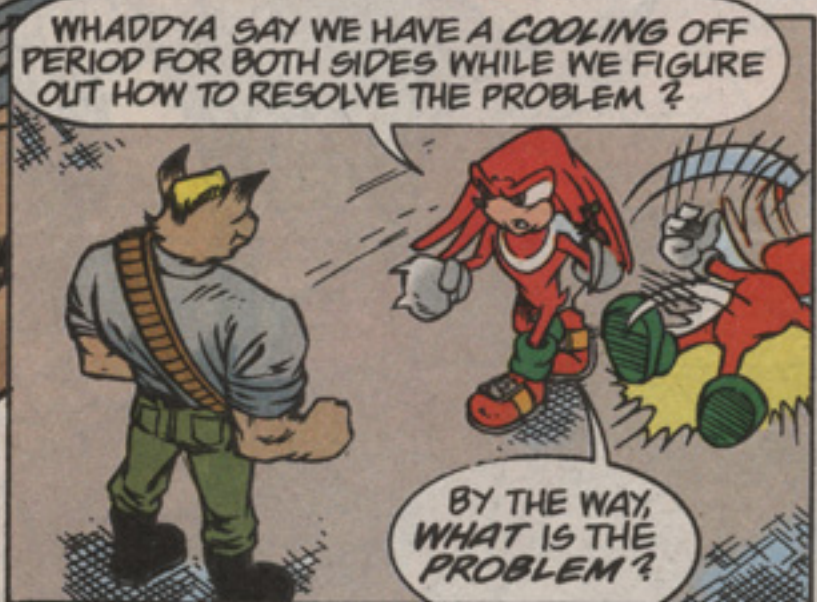
HAVE WE FALLEN
SO FAR THAT WE ARE
REDUCED TO BEGGING
FOR SCRAPS FROM
ECHIDNA TABLES?



BEGGING YOUR
PARDON,
GENERAL --

--BUT I'M NONE TOO
PROUD OF ECHIDNA
BEHAVIOR EITHER!

WHAM!



WHADDYA SAY WE HAVE A COOLING OFF
PERIOD FOR BOTH SIDES WHILE WE FIGURE
OUT HOW TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM?

BY THE WAY,
WHAT IS THE
PROBLEM?



TOO MANY
BROKEN ECHIDNA
PROMISES!

AND I SWEAR,
IF YOU AND YOURS
DON'T MAKE GOOD
THIS TIME--

--YOU'LL HAVE
WISHED YOU GOT RID
OF US INSTEAD!



NOW
THAT'S A
HAPPY
THOUGHT--

"-- TOO BAD I'M ONE
OF THE GOOD GUYS! "



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING ?!!

WAIT!!! NO!!
NOOO!!

DON'T
DO THIS!!!
PLEASE!!!

I BEG YOU!!

NOOOOOOOOOOO

THE
PATIENT
IS UNDER,
DOCTOR!

HE
SHOULDN'T
FEEL A
THING!

HE WON'T EVEN
REMEMBER BEING ON
THIS TABLE ONCE WE'RE
THROUGH!

LET'S MAKE THE
INITIAL INCISION
INTO THE SKULL OVER
HERE!

WHAT A
PITY--

--IT
ISN'T YOUR
ANCESTOR
LYING THERE
IN YOUR
STEAD!

I CAN STILL
SEE THE SMUG
LOOK ON HIS
FACE--

"--WHEN EDMUND AND I CONFRONTED MENTHOR BEFORE OUR PRESENTATION TO THE ASSEMBLED CHAMBER..."

--AND WITH YOUR SUPPORT, THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO GO ALONG.

DIMITRI, DIMITRI--

--IF THIS PLAN OF YOURS SUCCEEDS, YOU'LL BE A HERO TO ALL--

--AND THAT WOULD UPSET MY PLANS!

THEREFORE, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DENOUNCE IT FOR THE HERESAY THAT IT IS!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!

BUT HE DID--

THE HIGH COUNCILOR DENIED OUR PETITION--

"IT WAS OBVIOUS NO MATTER WHAT EDMUND OR I SAID, THE FIX WAS IN..."

THE DECISION STANDS!

BACK THEN, I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT AND AS ENERJAK, I WAS CONSUMED WITH MY OWN POWER. MY CARELESSNESS RESULTED IN MY DOWNFALL!

NOT THIS TIME, HOWEVER!

THIS TIME--

"...VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE!"

KNUCKLES!

HEY, GUYS!
MISS ME?

COMPADRE!

YO' THERE!
IT'S THE
HOMEBY!

BAMF!

WHERE YA
BEEN, KNUX?

EVERYTIME
WE TURN AROUND,
YOU'RE OUTTA
TOWN!

I WAS CHECKING IN
WITH MY MOM TO SEE
IF SHE WAS OKAY!

IT GOT
KIND OF HAIRY
WITH THE
DINGOES
DEMONSTRATING
NEAR HER
APARTMENT!

WHAT'S
LIP WITH
THAT?

THE WHOLE CITY SEEMS TO
BE ON EDGE LATELY!

I MAY
BE ABLE TO
EXPLAIN THAT
ONE!

JULIE-SH!

TALK TO ME,
GIRL!

THE WAY I HEAR IT, THE **HIGH COUNCIL** HASN'T LIFTED A FINGER TO **SPEED** ALONG PROGRESS ON **CONSTRUCTING** HOUSES FOR DINGOES!

WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN WHY **THEY'RE** ORNERY!

BUT WHY PROTEST **NOW**? WHY NOT **BEFORE**?

THE **ELECTIONS** FOR THE **HIGH COUNCIL** ARE **COMING** UP!

WHOEVER GETS VOTED IN COULD EITHER ADVANCE--

--OR THROW A **MONKEY WRENCH** IN THE **PROGRAM**!

AND SINCE YOUR **AVERAGE CITIZEN** HASN'T WEIGHED IN WITH AN OPINION **FOR** OR **AGAINST**--

--NOBODY HAS ANY CLUE WHAT THE **SMART COURSE** OF **ACTION** IS!

EXACTLY!

AND IT GETS EVEN **BETTER**!

I'M ALL **EARS**!

THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY SIGHTING OF **PRAVDA**, THE **ANTI-TECH** COUNCILOR SINCE **LAST NIGHT**!

ANY REASON GIVEN FOR HIS **DISAPPEARING** ACT?

HIS WIFE **ISN'T** TALKING, APPARENTLY, SHE'S **SPOOKED** OUT OF HER **MIND**!

HOW DO YOU **KNOW**?

LET'S JUST SAY A LITTLE **BIRDIE** TOLD ME.

IN CASE YOU **HAVEN'T** FIGURED IT OUT, **KNUX**--



-- SHE'S GOT FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES!

I'LL BE SURE TO TELL THE CONSTABLE THAT WHEN WE SEE HIM!

HE ASKED ME TO FIND YOU GUYS--

-- AND ARRANGE A MEETING!

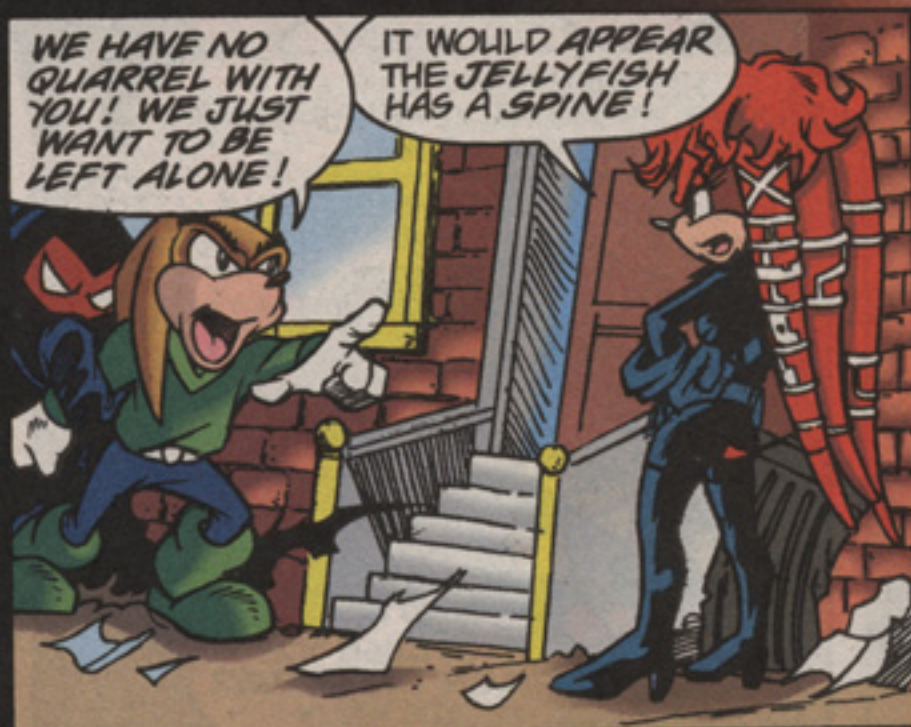


YOU WOULDN'T BE YANKIN' MY CHAIN NOW, DOLLFACE?



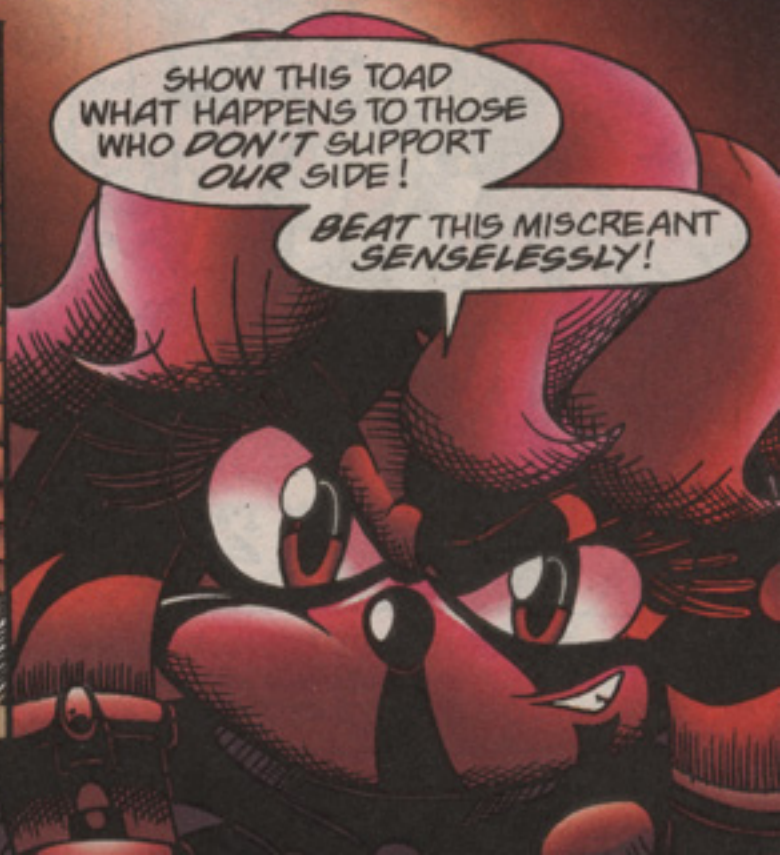
"WOULD I DO THAT, VECTOR?"

LET'S DEMONSTRATE TO EVERYONE WHAT THE PENALTY IS FOR BETRAYING OUR OWN KIND!



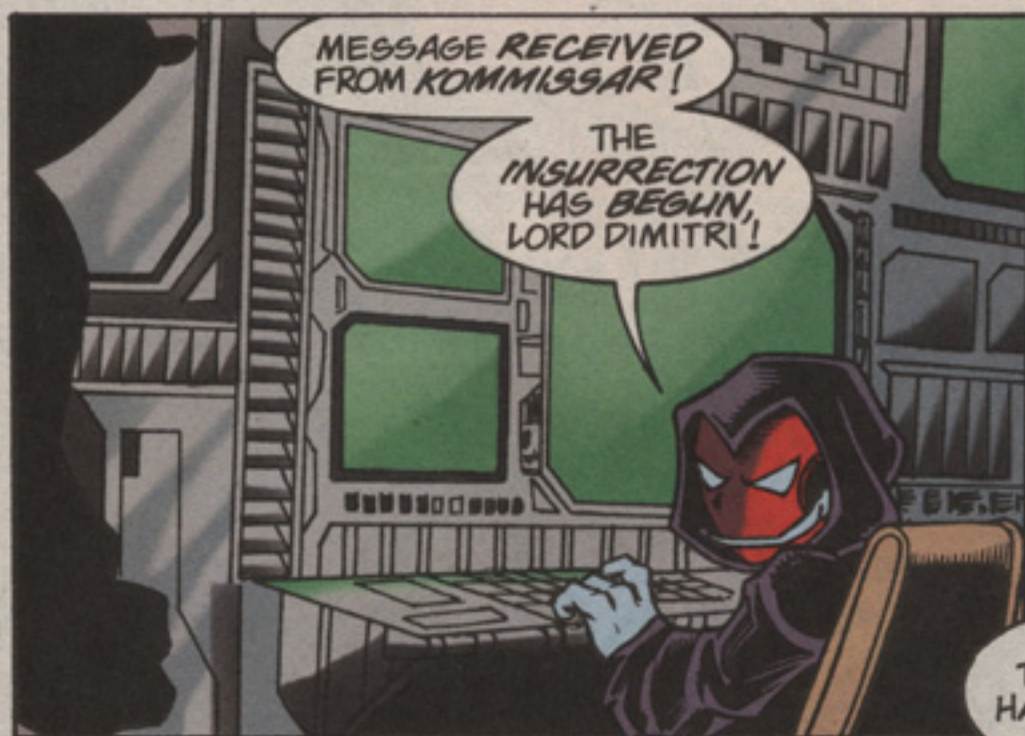
WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU! WE JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!

IT WOULD APPEAR THE JELLYFISH HAS A SPINE!



SHOW THIS TOAD WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO DON'T SUPPORT OUR SIDE!

BEAT THIS MISCREANT SENSELESSLY!



MESSAGE RECEIVED
FROM KOMMISSAR!

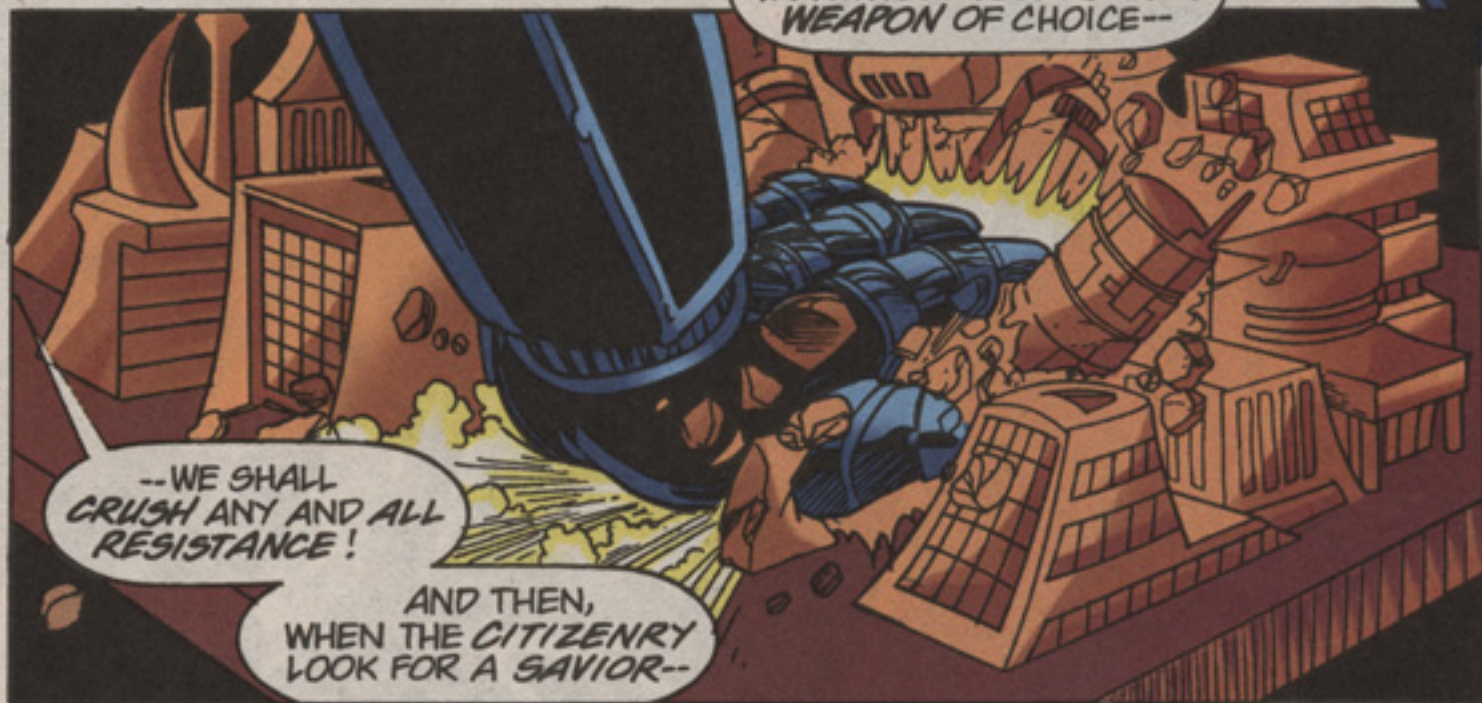
THE
INSURRECTION
HAS BEGUN,
LORD DIMITRI!



EXCELLENT!

WE'LL FINALLY
TAKE BACK WHAT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN OURS ALL THOSE
LONG YEARS AGO!

WITH TERROR AND
INTIMIDATION AS OUR
WEAPON OF CHOICE--



--WE SHALL
CRUSH ANY AND ALL
RESISTANCE!

AND THEN,
WHEN THE CITIZENRY
LOOK FOR A SAVIOR--



--WE SHALL
GIVE THEM
ONE!



LET'S HEAR IT
FOR THE PEOPLE'S
CHOICE--

--THAT
PARAGON OF
VIRTUE--



-- A STAUNCH
SUPPORTER OF THE
TECHNOLOGY NOW
CANDIDATE--

--PRAVDA!!

HAIL DIMITRI!
IMMORTAL DIMITRI!

HE SHALL EVER
ENDURE!

ENERGIZED BY THE
EMERALD, HIS POWER
IS LIMITLESS!

FIRST SHALL
ECHIDNAOPOLIS FALL
TO HIM, THEN MOBIUS
PRIME ITSELF!

HAIL
DIMITRI!

FISTFUL

OF



OFF PANEL By Gallagher and Manak **THIS JUST IN!**

What's up, Knux fans? It's your editor Justin Freddy Gabriele (a.k.a. J.F.G.) and I'm here to talk to you about all our little changes that started with this issue. *Sonic The Hedgehog* #67 and will continue with *Sonic Super Special* #8. All of them will have an icon representing Sonic, Knuckles or both. This will help you identify the Sonic comics at a glance and will distinguish them from the rest of the other books on the market.

These issues are each debuting a new feature for the letters page (including the design itself)... Off Panel, a monthly humor strip by Sonic veterans Mike Gallagher and Dave Manak. From time to time, we will sport a 'Letter of the Month' so if you want to be singled out, write to us about a specific story (or story arc) that really made you think or feel, good or bad. Also check out the new Fan Art Header by Jim Valentino and Ken Penders. Of course, regular features like 'Pro Art' and 'Find Your Name In Print' will continue to make appearances. We hope these little changes will make the books that much more entertaining to read.

Just so you know, all these changes are being done to represent the changes in our favorite characters' lives. In *Sonic The Hedgehog*, Sonic returns to Mobotropolis and just isn't ready for all the surprises in store for him and The Freedom Fighters. And as far as Knuckles The Echidna, Knuckles and all his ancestors are set for a collision course that reaches a fever pitch in Knuckles' 25th issue! So stick around for the most excitement you can shake a Chaos Emerald at. So until next we speak...

Catch you on the flip side!

SEND LETTERS TO:
FISTFUL OF LETTERS #22,
C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419
MAMARONECK, NY 10543-0419
E-MAIL: jfreddy@archiecomics.com
WEBSITE: www.archiecomics.com
SEGA WEBSITE: www.sega.com

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

We received a lot of mail for Knuckles #16, so let's get right to it, beginning with your comments on Lara-Le's revelation to Knuckles:

Dear Knuckles,

Commenting on your reaction in Knuckles #16, I think you should cool your jets. You should be happy your mom is going to remarry. Especially Wyn. He seems like a cool guy. Now that Julie-Su kissed you, I bet you're starting to like her now. Good luck with Julie-Su (-wink, wink-). Well, so long for now. Knux. See you in the funny papers.

Joseph "Rudy" Rudniski
(age 11)
Unity, Sask.
Canada

Dear Knuckles,

I've been a fan since your first appearance in the Sonic 3 game. In my opinion, I don't think the wedding between your mother and Wyn should happen. Your mother should be with your father! You're only fifteen years old and you guys still have the chance to be a real family again. Wyn shouldn't be your father (or in his case, step-father). Locke should. I mean I want to see Lara-

Le and Locke get back together!! And as far as your father goes, please don't get mad at him for leaving you when you were nine years old because it seems he was obligated to do so. Besides, even if you don't know it, he was a real help to you (behind the scenes) these past six years.

Kelly Anne Murray
Gig Harbor, WA

Komitchiwa Knuckles-San!

Knuckles #16 is the best to date! Lara-Le and Wyn seem happy to be together. I understand in a way how you feel, but you must understand that they both want to get married. I just hope you can accept that. By the way, please print my entire address. Sayonara and thanks.

Kathleen "Kat" D. Najera
20314 Thornlake Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90715

We have a lot of different opinions about Knuckles' mom remarrying. What do you think?

Dear Knuckles,

I just got #16 and it was great until the last page where you got a kiss from Julie-Su. I can't believe you're going soft on us. I liked you because you were tough

with an attitude who wouldn't let anyone push you around or invade your island. We want action, action, action!!! Hahahahahaha hahaha!

Alli Shular (age 13)
Albion, IL

Vh, thanks for your comments, comments, comments! Bwahahahaha!!!

Dear Sonic,

I love your comics! It's amazing how you quickly you found out you're not the only one of your kind. My friends say this book is boring (the plot, I mean), but I disagree. Your life is so full of odd twists and turns that it makes your book very hard to put down once I begin reading it. Congrats to you guys on a great job!

Lilith Fair (age 15), Scarlett (age 12), & Anne (age 11)
Yellville, AR

That's sweet of you to say, girls. Thanks to everyone who wrote in so until next month...

STAY COOL!

Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In one week: Get ready for an issue that has... not one... but four stories! The first is "Zone Wars- The Prelude" in which Sonic discover a Sally from a different dimension and learns a secret about the Cosmic Interstate! Story and art by Dan Slott, James Fry and Bob Wiacek! The second, "Running On Empty" chronicles a story in which Sonic ages everytime he uses his speed! By Roger Brown, Nelson Ribeiro & Jim Amash. Also included are solo stories starring Monkey Khan and Tails! **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #8** on sale mid-January 1999!



In three weeks: The vigil beside Queen Alicia's bedside continues in peace — or so Sonic and The Freedom Fighters think. They are being stalked by a mysterious enemy that will make their presence known by the end of the issue. And wait until you find out what they want. Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eldund. Also: Lupe and The Wolf Pack, Part Three of Three! "Nuff said! By Ken Penders and Sam Maxwell! **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #69** on sale late January 1999!



And Next Month: The Dark Legion's plan is underway and it's caught everyone unaware except for our favorite Guardian. But Dimini and his crew are more than ready for Knuckles and The Chaotix this time. Check out the second installment of Dark Alliance in "Election Night" by Ken Penders, Jim Valentino and Harvey Mercadocasio! **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #23** on sale early February 1999!



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